



## Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

**File No. 592**

Senate Bill No. 229

*Senate, April 30, 2003*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. MCDONALD of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON TORT REFORM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1      Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
- 2      to study tort reform. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, an
- 3      examination of various tort reform concepts and medical malpractice
- 4      issues and their effects on insurance rates and the judicial system.
- 5      (b) The task force shall consist of the following members and shall
- 6      include representatives of the interests of health care providers,
- 7      insurance companies and lawyers:
- 8      (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 9      (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 10      (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
- 11      Representatives;

- 12 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 13 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
14 Representatives;
- 15 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- 16 (7) A judge of the Superior Court, who shall be appointed by the  
17 Chief Court Administrator; and
- 18 (8) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing  
19 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
20 relating to judiciary, public health and insurance.
- 21 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),  
22 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
23 of the General Assembly.
- 24 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than  
25 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
26 filled by the appointing authority.
- 27 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
28 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task  
29 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons  
30 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, to be held no later  
31 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- 32 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
33 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to judiciary  
34 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 35 (g) Not later than January 15, 2004, the task force shall submit a  
36 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
37 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
38 relating to judiciary, public health and insurance, in accordance with  
39 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force  
40 shall terminate on the date that it submits such report or January 15,

41 2004, whichever is earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows:
--

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
-----------	---------------------

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

---

**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Minimal
Judicial Dept.	GF - None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill establishes a task force to study various tort reform concepts and medical malpractice issues. The bill appoints a Superior Court Judge, which will result in no fiscal impact to the agency. Additionally, the chairs and ranking members of the Judiciary, Public Health, and Insurance and Real Estate committees are appointed to the bill, which will result in a minimal cost to Legislative Management for legislator mileage reimbursement. It is anticipated that the administrative staff of the Judiciary Committee can serve as the task force's administrative staff, within normal budgetary resources.

---

**OLR Bill Analysis**

SB 229

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON TORT REFORM*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a 21 member task force to study various tort reform concepts and medical malpractice issues and their effects on insurance rates and the judicial system.

It consists of the following members and must include representatives of the interests of health care providers, insurance companies and lawyers:

1. two each appointed by the House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore;
2. one each appointed by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders;
3. a Superior Court judge appointed by the Chief Court Administrator; and
4. the chairpersons and ranking members of the Judiciary, Public Health, and Insurance and Real Estate committees.

Anyone appointed by legislative leaders may be a member of the General Assembly.

All appointments to the task force must be made within 30 days after the bill's effective date. The appointing authority must fill any vacancies.

The House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons. The bill requires the chairpersons to schedule the first meeting of the task force within 60 days after the bill's effective date.

The bill requires the administrative staff of the Judiciary Committee to serve as the task force's administrative staff.

The task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations by January 15, 2004 to the Judiciary, Public Health, and Insurance and Real Estate committees. The task force must submit copies to the Senate and House clerks, the State Librarian, and the Office of Legislative Research.

The task force terminates on the date it submits its report or January 15, 2004, whichever is earlier.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 41      Nay 0